

Commander's Call Topics



Nov. 13, 2009

"Bound by common purpose and driven by singular valor, our nation's service men and women exemplify the very best of our patriotic tradition. From "the shot heard 'round the world," in Lexington on April 19, 1775, to their exceptional deeds in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere today, our veterans - past and present - have served nobly, and deserve our sincere gratitude and abiding respect."

- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz from their joint [Veterans Day message](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

Chief of Staff addresses key mobility, Air Force issues at conference

Air Force chief of staff Gen. Norton Schwartz recently attended the 41st Airlift Tanker Association conference where he emphasized the importance of every Airman and every job in the Air Force. The general also emphasized Air Force priorities and discussed air mobility's vital contributions, keys to future capabilities and modernization challenges.

Air Force officials unveil new strategic basing process

A new process has been developed to define how Air Force experts make basing decisions. The process was put into practice in selecting potential training and operational sites for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter.

Airman magazine available

The latest issue of Airman, the official magazine of the U.S. Air Force, is now available online. The November/December edition highlights caring for Airmen and their families: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

New selective re-enlistment bonus list released

The latest selective re-enlistment bonus list contains 91 Air Force specialties. All increases and additions were effective Nov. 4 and all decreases and deletions will go into effect Dec. 4. These bonuses do not apply to Air Force Reserve or National Guard personnel.

For a complete SRB listing, type "SRB" in the search box on AFPC's secure "Ask" site or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 565-5000.

Air Force officials accepting physician assistant applications

Active-duty enlisted Airmen can apply for Physician Assistant Phase I Training classes which begin December 2010, and April and August 2011. Applications must be received at the Air Force Personnel Center no later than Jan. 25, 2010. View AFPC's "Ask" Web site or call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

Nominees sought for 2010 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award

Nominations are due to AFPC by April 22, 2010. There are three categories for award: Airman, NCO and Senior NCO. The period of service for the award is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2009. Submissions must be based only on achievements that occurred in 2009.

Air Force official seek nominations for NCOA Vanguard Award

Nominees must be between the rank of senior airman and chief master sergeant who have performed a heroic act, on or off duty, which resulted in saving someone's life or preventing serious injury. To be eligible, the heroic act must have occurred between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.

CIVILIAN

Open season set for three civilian benefit programs

From Nov. 9 through Dec. 14 it's open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program; the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance program, and the Federal Flexible Spending Account program. Visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/> or visit AFPC's "Ask" Web site.

Official cites benefits of deploying civilians

To relieve troops of some additional tasks, a Defense Department initiative known as the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce is training and equipping a civilian work force capable of deploying overseas to support military missions. In addition to a salary bump, one benefit of CEW is that when participants return to their domestic Defense Department jobs -- which are guaranteed upon return -- they do so with a broadened perspective.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policy opens federal job opportunities for qualifying military spouses

A new executive policy has pushed open the door for three groups of qualifying spouses to enter the federal workforce, enabling them to apply for temporary, term and permanent employment in all pay grades:

- The spouse of an Airman who has been issued orders for a permanent change of station,
- The spouse of an Airman who retired with a disability rating at the time of retirement of 100 percent; or retired or separated from the Air Force and has a disability rating of 100 percent from the Department of Veterans Affairs,
- The un-remarried widow or widower of an Airman killed while in active-duty status.

For specific details on the noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses, go to <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/> and Quick Search "RIN 3206-AL73." For more information on the noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

Prescription meds: Proceed with caution

Wrongful use of prescription drugs is a violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition to potential damage to an Airman's career, prescription drugs have possible physical side effects as well. Fortunately, problems can be avoided if Airmen simply follow their doctor or primary care manager's instructions.

WARRIOR CARE

November is Warrior Care Month: Warrior Care Month is a DOD-wide effort aimed at increasing awareness of programs and resources available to wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and those who care about them. Visit the Air Force Wounded Warrior Web site at: <http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/>.

Call, Chat, or E-Mail for 24/7 Counseling

Mental health concerns can be remedied with proper medical attention. For those who would benefit from mental health care, the installation's mental health clinic is a great place to start. In addition to the local clinics, other organizations offer several ways to get help anywhere, anytime. Military OneSource can assist with a wide range of issues that affect Airmen and their families. To reach a professionally trained consultant, call 1-800-342-9647 or go online to www.militaryonesource.com.

The Defense Centers of Excellence Outreach Center offers physiological health and traumatic brain injury information from trained health resource consultants. To reach DCoE by phone, dial 1-866-966-1020. To chat with a consultant online, visit www.realwarriors.net and click Live Chat.

Finally, anyone in crisis or contemplating suicide should call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline immediately at 800-273-TALK. Servicemembers can press 1 for the veterans' line. If you prefer to chat live with a counselor, visit <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx> and click Chat Live Online. For more post-deployment health resources and information, please visit <https://kx.afms.mil/pdhra>.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Highlights

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Year of the Air Force Family

<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Nov. 17, 1961 – The first successful launch of a Minuteman ICBM missile from an underground silo took place at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The re-entry vehicle hit the target area 3,000 miles downrange.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

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